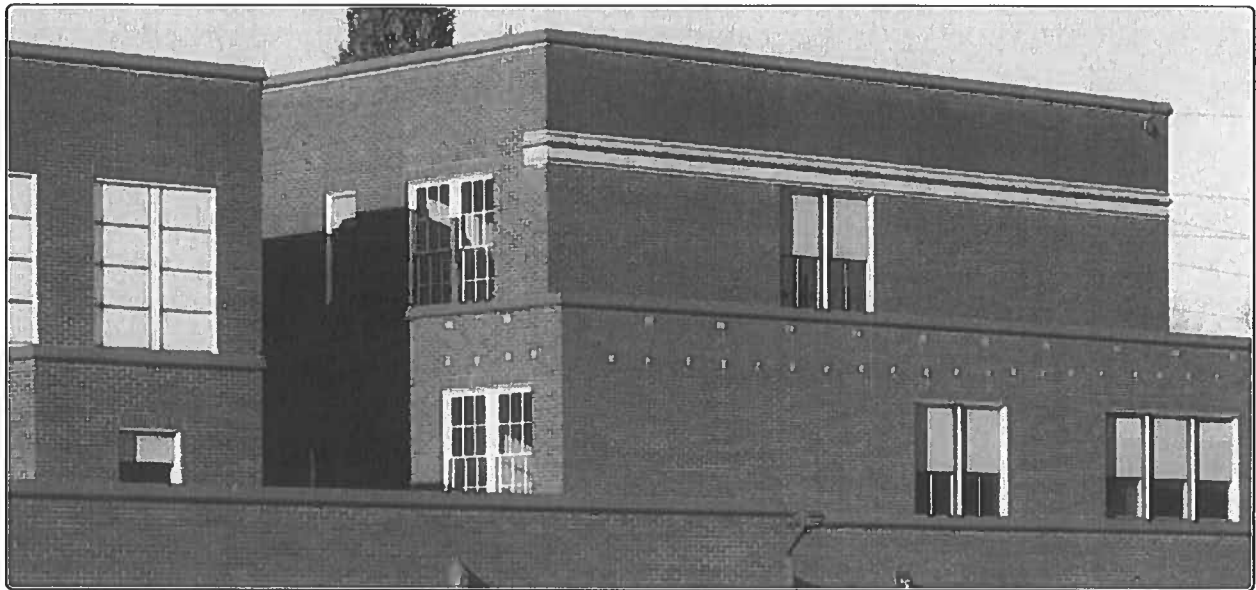


All Things Gifted

Newsletter For Families of Gifted Learners

DECEMBER 6, 2024



Dear Families,

Hello, Black Tigers community! My name is Tammi Belko, and I am the District Gifted Intervention Specialist. My role in the district is to manage Written Education Plans, administer assessments, develop enrichment programs and provide support for gifted students and families. With this in mind, I want to take a moment to introduce the "All Things Gifted Newsletter." Here you will find information to support your gifted child, information about gifted programming/enrichment at Cuyahoga Falls City Schools and upcoming information nights.

If you have specific questions about your gifted child, please contact me at cf_belkot@cftigers.org or 330-926-3800 x 502039.

Sincerely,
Tammi Belko

In this issue:



WEPS

If your child has a gifted identification, you will be receiving a Written Education Plan (WEP). This information will arrive electronically via parent/guardian email before winter break. The WEP complies with the Gifted Operating Standards from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW). School districts in Ohio are required to send information to the ODEW regarding how many students are identified as gifted and if they are taking a class that corresponds to the subject area of identification.

The WEP outlines goals, learning strategies, and activities for your child to help them reach their full potential in areas where they excel, like math, science, reading, or the arts. It also specifies the programs or support utilized (like accelerated classes) to meet these goals as well as how your child's progress will be measured.

WEPS are revisited annually to track progress and adjust goals or strategies as needed.

Think of a WEP as a personalized roadmap that helps your child stay engaged and challenged in their learning journey.



Gifted Services in Cuyahoga Falls

CLUSTER GROUPING Grades 3-5

What is it?

- In this model, **gifted students** are placed together in a regular classroom with other students.
- The class includes a **mix of students** with different learning needs, but there is a small, defined "cluster" of gifted students who work together on more challenging tasks.

How does it work?

- The classroom teacher adjusts instruction to provide **enrichment, advanced learning opportunities, or faster-paced lessons** for the gifted cluster while teaching the rest of the class at grade level.
- General education teachers at Cuyahoga Falls receive special training to effectively meet the needs of both the gifted students and the rest of the class.

Subject Acceleration

Ohio schools follow specific guidelines to ensure acceleration decisions are in your child's best interest:

- In Cuyahoga Falls we use research-based tools (IOWA Assessment, Cogat, IAAT) and teams of educators to evaluate if acceleration is the right fit.
- **In subject acceleration, your child moves ahead in a specific subject where they show advanced skills. A team assesses your child's skills, readiness, and ability to handle advanced material in the subject. If approved, your child begins advanced work in that subject, either by joining an older grade for that class or by receiving enrichment from their current teacher.**

Whole-Grade Acceleration

- Your child skips an entire grade level. This is appropriate for students who excel in all subjects and demonstrate readiness both academically and socially.
- How it works: A comprehensive evaluation (including



Gifted Service Cuyahoga Falls (6-12)

HONORS CLASSES 6-12

Subject area class is differentiated for depth, breadth and complexity.

Activities and assignments will be at a high level of analysis, evaluation, synthesis, and creation.

These classes are excellent preparation for Advanced Placement classes and are highly recommended choices for gifted high school students.

** Middle School (6-8) placement in these classes is determined by test scores.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS(CCP) 7-12 Placement testing is required. Information can be found [here](#), [FAQ for students & families](#), [Parent & Guardian Access to information](#).

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) High School

Advanced Placement (AP) classes are high school courses designed to give students a taste of college-level academics while they're still in high school. These classes are more challenging than regular or honors classes, covering subjects like math, science, English, history, and even arts and foreign languages in greater depth and complexity. AP classes teach skills like critical thinking, time management, and advanced study techniques, which help prepare students for the academic rigors of college. Taking AP classes shows colleges that a student is serious about academics and willing to challenge themselves.

At the end of the year, students can take an AP exam. If they score well, many colleges will give them credit for the course, which can save time and money in college.

It is important to note that AP classes require more time and effort than regular high school classes and CCP classes, so it's important for students to balance them with other responsibilities, activities, and self-care. As a parent, you can support your child by helping them manage their workload, providing encouragement, and discussing their



Gifted Service Cuyahoga Falls (6-12)

HONORS CLASSES 6-12

Subject area class is differentiated for depth, breadth and complexity.

Activities and assignments will be at a high level of analysis, evaluation, synthesis, and creation.

These classes are excellent preparation for Advanced Placement classes and are highly recommended choices for gifted high school students.

**** Middle School (6-8) placement in these classes is determined by test scores.**

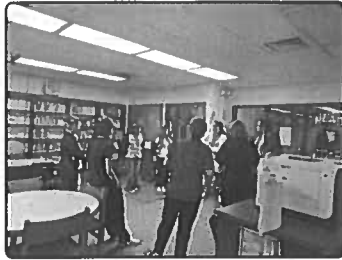
COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS(CCP) 7-12 Placement testing is required. Information can be found [here](#), [FAQ for students & families](#), [Parent & Guardian Access to information](#).

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) High School

Advanced Placement (AP) classes are high school courses designed to give students a taste of college-level academics while they're still in high school. These classes are more challenging than regular or honors classes, covering subjects like math, science, English, history, and even arts and foreign languages in greater depth and complexity. AP classes teach skills like critical thinking, time management, and advanced study techniques, which help prepare students for the academic rigors of college. Taking AP classes shows colleges that a student is serious about academics and willing to challenge themselves.

At the end of the year, students can take an AP exam. If they score well, many colleges will give them credit for the course, which can save time and money in college.

It is important to note that AP classes require more time and effort than regular high school classes and CCP classes, so it's important for students to balance them with other responsibilities, activities, and self-care. As a parent, you can support your child by helping them manage their workload, providing encouragement, and discussing their



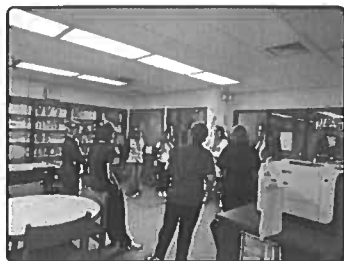
Honors Programs in Action

Teaching artists from **Dobama Theater** guide Bolich and Roberts' 8th-grade Honors students in an exciting three-week residency program focused on playwriting. Throughout this immersive experience, students learn the art of crafting compelling narratives and characters. At the culmination of the residency, students have the opportunity to write their own original plays and submit them to the prestigious **Young Playwrights Festival**. In March, ten winning plays from Northeast Ohio students will be selected for production by Dobama Theater.

Contests & Tournaments : Middle School & High School

Is your gifted child an artist or a writer? **Scholastic Arts & Writing** is the longest running recognition program for creative teens. If your child loves to write and/or create, please check out The Scholastic Art & Writing Contest **here**.

Power of the Pen - Based in Ohio, POP, is a middle school writing program which hosts district, regional, and state scholastic writing competitions. Team members write 3 stories in response to 3 prompts. Team members have 40 minutes to write each story. Our 7/8 grade team has been practicing since September and our first tournament is Saturday, January 18th.



Honors Programs in Action

Teaching artists from **Dobama Theater** guide Bolich and Roberts' 8th-grade Honors students in an exciting three-week residency program focused on playwriting. Throughout this immersive experience, students learn the art of crafting compelling narratives and characters. At the culmination of the residency, students have the opportunity to write their own original plays and submit them to the prestigious **Young Playwrights Festival**. In March, ten winning plays from Northeast Ohio students will be selected for production by Dobama Theater.

Contests & Tournaments : Middle School & High School

Is your gifted child an artist or a writer? **Scholastic Arts & Writing** is the longest running recognition program for creative teens. If your child loves to write and/or create, please check out The Scholastic Art & Writing Contest **here**.

Power of the Pen - Based in Ohio, POP, is a middle school writing program which hosts district, regional, and state scholastic writing competitions. Team members write 3 stories in response to 3 prompts. Team members have 40 minutes to write each story. Our 7th grade team has been practicing since September and our first tournament is Saturday, January 18th.

Gifted Information

Wednesday, January 15th High School Parents virtual. Topic: How can I support my gifted learner and guide them in course selections? **Virtual Q&A**

Gifted Parent Information Night: Tuesday, **March 18th 5:00 -5:45** Elementary Grades 2-5

6:00 -6:45 Grades 6-8

High School Media Center

If you have specific questions about your gifted child, please contact me at **cf_belkot@cftigers.org** or 330-926-3800 x 502039.